

# From America on the Rand Corporation

# AND DEATH, INC.



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1 un- have their know- you h an with super brains-trust. Yet, with that curious mixture of the macabre and the bizarre that gives this place its eerie flavour, you will find these supremely intelligent men working on other projects. Cancer, for instance.

## Grotesque...

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One part of the corporate brain of Rand seeks, with all the energy and brilliance it can command, to destroy the world in blast and fire and the devilments of radiation and fall-out sickness. The other, with the arms of compassion and understanding, seeks to rescue mankind from the torments of cancer.

The mixture is grotesque. A treatise on the design of the nose-cone of a satellite next to a profound thesis on the correct type of pasture to grow in certain soil and weather conditions for a firm of tinned milk manufacturers; a study of titanium base alloys jostling up with a reference work on the economy of France, a dissertation on congenital abnormality alongside an investigation into the fuel problems of oil refineries.

But behind these learned and varied reflections the main business of Rand is war and the ruin of the world.

ONE of the most able men at Rand is Albert Wohlstetter. He has written a remarkable study on the problems of World War Three—certainly the last of the grisly series. The title is blood-chilling—"The Delicate Balance of Terror."

The theme is equally ominous. It is largely the enormous advantage that thermo-nuclear weapons give to an aggressor—the temptation of putting the deadly surprise punch in first.

He says: "The risk of not

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striking might at some juncture appear very great to the Soviets, involving, for example, disastrous defeat in peripheral war, loss of key satellites with danger of revolt spreading—possibly to Russia itself—or fear of an attack by ourselves. Then, striking first by surprise would be the sensible choice for them, and from their point of view, the smaller risk.

Another brilliant physicist at Rand is Herman Kahn.

His contemplations, writings and lectures are on the same sombre theme. The subjects have the cataclysmic ring of horror:

"Will the Survivors Envy the Dead?"

"How Much Tragedy is Acceptable?"

"Can Society Bear the Economic Burdens caused by the Increased Sickness, Malformations and Deaths?"

He approaches his appalling subject with mathematical objectivity. He estimates that after exposure to a certain degree of radiation from fall-out, the results would affect the United States thus:

There would be "roughly 65,000 defective American children in the first generation and 650,000 in every generation when new levels of stability are reached."

## Large Toll

"This would be a large toll; moreover, we are talking about such serious defects as imbecility, crippling, blindness, deafness and various debilitating or deforming diseases or defects. If not correctable by medical science, these congenital defects are viewed by most parents as human tragedy in its most extreme form—a live defective child."

Mr. Kahn, who deals in the probability—or the certainty—of scores of millions of people being killed in a thermo-nuclear war, has for convenience sake had to invent a new word for a million corpses. It is "Megadeath."

YOU cannot criticise the studies of these men. They could well claim to be doing their patriotic duty—although they would probably agree that, if the worst came to the worst, there would be precious little left to be patriotic about.

But you can criticise the madness of mankind that has brought about this state of affairs.

The professors at Rand are faced with the increasingly intractable problem of a bristling Soviet Union probing for weaknesses in an eminently well-armed adversary, the United States.

Or, as the first great atomic bomb scientist Robert Oppenheimer put it, the problem of two dangerous scorpions coked up together in a bottle.

A good example of the present fear of the apocalypse in America is the raging argument



## The man who said 'MEGADEATH'

Herman Kahn, brilliant physicist of Rand and author of "Will the Survivors Envy the Dead?" ... Is he in thought—or in prayer?

... and that is a million dead

that, at this moment, is going on between two eminent clergymen.

Their subject is "Survival Shelters."

Some people here strongly feel that if they own a shelter it is their personal property and, as they have paid for it, no strangers should be allowed inside, in the event of a third world war.

This view is supported by the Rev. L. C. McHugh who is the editor of the religious magazine "America." He says that "neighbours trying to break into a family shelter should be considered unjust aggressors and be repelled by violence if necessary."

Violence in the United States means guns.

To this revised version of the Good Samaritan, the Right Rev. Angus Dun, the Bishop of Washington, replied that "it is utterly immoral to talk about using guns

to drive neighbours away from a family fall-out shelter. I do not see how any Christian conscience can condone a policy which puts supreme emphasis on saving your own skin without regard to your neighbour."

If ever the Rand Corporation has to put into practice the results of its military games, played with such unhurried finesse to the accompaniment of the music of computers, then the twentieth century world will be ready for its epitaph:

"THEY ASKED FOR IT. THEY GOT IT."

